



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB 1439

prisoners; mental health; transition program

Prime Sponsor: Senator Barto, LD 15

X Committee on Military Affairs and Public Safety

Caucus and COW

House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

SB 1439 requires the Director of the Department of Corrections (ADC) to establish a Mental Health Transition Pilot Program (Program).

PROVISIONS

1. Requires the Director of ADC to establish the Program for individuals on community supervision who would be determined to benefit from the Program.
2. Allows the Director of ADC to order a prisoner to participate in the Program.
3. Requires the Program to include:
 - a. Private entities or nonprofits that have transitional navigators who provide resources and guidance to individuals with mental health issues; and
 - b. Psychoeducational counseling and case management, which include substance abuse treatment, cognitive skills training, anger management, parenting skills and family reunification training.
4. Requires the Director of ADC to determine who may be eligible for the Program, by identifying prisoners who would benefit the most from the Program's goals.
5. Establishes mandatory participation goals, as follows:
 - a. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, at least 600 prisoners;
 - b. In FY 2018, at least 800 prisoners; and
 - c. In FY 2019 and thereafter, at least 1,000 prisoners.
6. Terminates the Program on July 1, 2026.
7. Makes technical and conforming changes.

CURRENT LAW

[A.R.S. § 41-1604.07](#) requires ADC to establish appropriate conditions of community supervision for eligible prisoners. The Director of ADC is permitted to order a released inmate to participate in a drug treatment or educational programs that is administered by a qualified entity who provides substance abuse treatment or educational services. Statute specifies that an eligible inmate must pay for these services, to the extent that they are able.